

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

Methods and apparatus are provided for transmitting alternate-polarization phase-shift-keyed data. The output of a laser is modulated to optically encode electronic data using phase shift keying (PSK) to generate an optical signal. An alternate polarization PSK (APol-PSK) signal is generated by alternating the polarization of the optical signal using a modulator such that successive optical bits have substantially orthogonal polarizations.